

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Alexandria National Cemetery

other names/site number Soldiers' Cemetery; VDHR File No. 100-138

2. Location

street & number 1450 Wilkes Street not for publication N/A
city or town Alexandria vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Alexandria (independent code 510 zip code 22314
city)

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant x nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official [Signature] Date 12/30/94

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

Property Name

County or Independent City, Virginia

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Civil War Era National Cemeteries

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **FUNERARY** Sub: **cemetary**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **FUNERARY** Sub: **cemetary**

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u> STONE: </u>	<u> sandstone; BRICK </u>
walls	<u> STONE: </u>	<u> sandstone </u>
	<u> BRICK </u>	<u> </u>
roof	<u> METAL; OTHER: </u>	<u> cement shingles </u>
other	<u> METAL: </u>	<u> iron, cast iron </u>
	<u> STONE: </u>	<u> marble </u>

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

Period of Significance 1862-1887

Significant Dates 1862

1887

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder Meigs, Montgomery C.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Property Name

County or Independent City, Virginia

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 5.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	321250	4296590	2		
3				4		

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Therese T. Sammartino, Staff Assistant, National Cemetery System
organization Department of Veterans Affairs date September 14, 1994
street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N. W. telephone 202-275-1459
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20420

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Department of Veterans Affairs
street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N. W. telephone
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20420

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Section number 7 Page 1Alexandria National Cemetery
City of Alexandria, Virginia**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Alexandria National Cemetery is located at 1450 Wilkes Street, Alexandria, Virginia, six blocks west of U.S. Highway 1 in the City of Alexandria. The main entrance on Wilkes Street has 12-foot-wide entry gates with a pedestrian gate on the north side, all made of ornamental wrought and cast iron. The main gates are supported by cast-iron piers and the pedestrian gates by stone piers. The cemetery is surrounded by a red sandstone wall approximately 4' 6" high and 24" thick (1,226 linear feet).

The cemetery was established in 1862, and laid out in four burial sections with numerous handsome trees and shrubs. There are 4,066 graves, all marked with small white marble stone markers, rectangular in shape but with rounded, or arched, tops. The graves were originally marked by headboards, painted and lettered, many of which were strapped with hoop-iron near the top. In August 1876, the boards were replaced with the upright marble markers. Four Quartermaster Corps employees (Peter Carroll, Samuel N. Gosnell, George W. Huntington, and Christopher Farley), who drowned in the Rappahannock River on April 24, 1865, while in pursuit of Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, are buried in Section A, Graves 3174-3177. On July 7, 1922, a special monument was erected by the United States in memory of these men. The monument is a bronze tablet on a granite boulder base, about 3' x 3' and 3' high, and located in the center of the cemetery on a terraced wall.

On May 10, 1967, former Army Sergeant Saul O. Lewis, a veteran of the Korean War, was buried in the cemetery's last uncommitted gravesite. The cemetery was officially closed on May 15, 1967. A small amount of interments still occur yearly, which include second interments in occupied graves, interments in reserved gravesites, or interments of cremated remains. As of December 1993, there were 22 reserved gravesites available, as well as 70 sites available for the interment of cremated remains.

The original superintendent's lodge was constructed in 1862 and was the prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. This structure was destroyed by fire in 1878. In 1887, the present lodge was built over the old walls using the original design and foundation. The L-shaped lodge is of the Second Empire style. The main portion is 1 1/2 stories high with a mansard roof with dormer windows enclosing the upper story. The exterior walls are 24-inch-thick random red sandstone. The roof was originally made of tin with the mansard sheathed in Virginia slate. The slate has since been replaced with asbestos shingles and in 1992 with fiber reinforced cement shingles. The floor to ceiling height on the first floor is approximately 10 feet. The second floor has three bedrooms, one of which has a corner partitioned off for a bathroom. All original windows and door moldings are in place; however, floors were replaced and fireplaces removed in 1952.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Section number 7 & 8 Page 2Alexandria National Cemetery
City of Alexandria, Virginia**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)**

In 1887, a brick Italianate building (utility building) was constructed containing a kitchen, storeroom, tool room, and toilet. The 522-square-foot building has a brick foundation with molded brick water table, brick walls, tin roof, and cement floors. In 1927, this building was connected to the lodge by constructing a wing for the dining room. The wing is one story high with 8-inch brick walls and metal roof. In 1952, the original kitchen was converted to storage space, a new 12' x 16' garage addition was constructed, and a new 10' x 60' driveway to the garage was added. The dining room was renovated into the kitchen. The main architectural features of the utility building are two arched brick bays each containing a more narrow arch with openings for a window and a door. The original stone steps remain, but the original door and window openings have been replaced with new door openings. These new openings are not compatible with the original architecture.

The original 16'-wide octagonal rostrum, brick foundation, tin roof, concrete floors, with iron columns supporting the roof, was completed on March 28, 1890. The rostrum was demolished in 1945 and replaced in 1946 with a fieldstone and slate assembly area and flagpole. The assembly area has a slate pavement enclosed by low fieldstone walls with stone steps leading down from the flag to the plaza. A white marble rostrum is at the southern end.

In 1980, the City of Alexandria designated a tree estimated to be 200 years old, as an Alexandria Bicentennial Tree. It is a Liquidambar styraciflua species and is centrally located in the cemetery.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexandria National Cemetery is significant under Criteria A and C, and is an important component of the multiple property submission of Civil War Era National Cemeteries. It is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the Civil War and under Criterion C, because the lodge represents a distinctive prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, who was acclaimed as a master architect of civil works projects for the Quartermaster Corps.

The City of Alexandria, Virginia, was the site of one of the principal camps for northern Virginia troops sent to defend Washington at the outbreak of hostilities between the North and the South. Here, in response to the popular slogan "On to Richmond," the Union Army of the Potomac was assembled from a miscellaneous collection of militia regiments.

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Section number 8 Page 3Alexandria National Cemetery
City of Alexandria, Virginia**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)**

By May 1861, a sizable Virginia force had formed in Alexandria. Six infantry companies and an artillery battery were homegrown and they had been joined at various times by the Warrenton Rifles, the Prince William Rifles, the Warren Rifles from Front Royal, the Fairfax Rifles, the Loudoun Guards, Ball's Cavalry, the Fairfax Cavalry, a three-company battalion from the District of Columbia known as the Washington Volunteers, and the Beauregard and the National Rifles also from Washington. Thus, Alexandria, on the eve of the war, had 20 company-size units. The force was approximately 2,000 strong and 722 of these men, six percent of the total population, both black and white of the city, were native Alexandrians in Alexandria units.

Following the first encounter at Bull Run on July 21, 1861, Washington was surrounded by a cordon of field works that included Alexandria. This fortress area became a center of military operations in the eastern theater of hostilities throughout the long conflict. Alexandria served as a hospital and convalescent center for Federal troops wounded in the field.

The Soldiers' Cemetery (later named Alexandria National Cemetery) was established in the latter half of 1862, pursuant to legislation signed by President Abraham Lincoln on July 17, 1862. This legislation authorized the President to purchase cemetery grounds to be used as national cemeteries for soldiers who died in the service of their country. The cemetery is located on land originally known as Spring Garden Farm and consists of 5.5 acres, and is the final resting place of men who fell in battle at Manassas, Thoroughfare Gap, and the forts that protected Washington. Despite the fact that the cemetery was used for approximately three years during the Civil War, formal acquisition or title by the United States Government did not occur until 1865. The original land acquisition consisted of 88,164 square feet of ground (slightly over 2 acres) conveyed to the United States by deed dated November 8, 1865, from John H. Baggett and wife. Acquisition of other adjoining land was executed by two additional deeds from John H. Baggett and wife (approximately 1.5 acres), and quitclaim deed from the City of Alexandria dated May 6, 1875 (2 acres).

The national cemetery was established as a burial ground for Union soldiers who had died in battle and at numerous hospitals in the area. The first burials in the cemetery were soldiers who died incident to training or from sickness or disease in the many hospitals around Alexandria. The first soldier buried in the national cemetery was Corporal Allen Greely, 10th Vermont Infantry. Many of the dead were reinterred from burial grounds in the surrounding area. After the ferocious Seven Days Campaign in 1862 and General Ulysses Grant's assault against Richmond in 1864, thousands of wounded Northern troops were transported via railroad from the front to Alexandria. Many died in town and frequently the bodies of officers would be embalmed and sent to grieving relatives. Others, the majority of whom were enlisted men, were interred in the national cemetery. The small cemetery was nearly filled to capacity by 1864.

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Alexandria National Cemetery
City of Alexandria, VirginiaSection number 8,9,10 Page 4**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)**

No Confederate soldiers rest in the cemetery, although at one time there were 39. These "rebels," as they were officially described in an old ledger, were prisoners of the Union troops and had died in Alexandria hospitals. When they died, they were buried alongside the men they had fought. In 1879, the Daughters of the Confederacy had the remains of 34 Confederate soldiers moved to Christ Church Cemetery in Alexandria. It is said that the Daughters of the Confederacy would not have any of "their soldiers buried with Yankees."

The Soldiers' Cemetery remained officially unnamed for 74 years. In 1936, General Order No. 7 was published by the War Department, officially designating this site the Alexandria National Cemetery.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Cemetery System Microfilm Records

Newspaper Articles - Library of Virginia History and Genealogy, 200 North Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia (Lloyd House) 1987-1988

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 5.5 acres which comprise the Alexandria National Cemetery were acquired in four separate transactions. The boundaries of each parcel are as follows:

PARCEL 1 - 2 ACRES

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the center line of Wilkes Lane, extended with the Western boundary line of the Methodist Episcopal Burial Ground and running thence North, Eleven degrees and thirty minutes (11 30') East Three hundred and seventy-two and eighty seven one hundredths of a foot (372 87/100 ft) to the Southerly line of the land of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company thence north, eighty two degrees and twenty minutes (82 20') West, and along the last mentioned line, Two hundred and thirty seven feet and sixty two one hundredths of a foot (237, 62/100 ft): thence South eleven degrees and thirty minutes (11 30') West, Three hundred and sixty feet and forty-one hundredths of a foot (360, 41/100 ft): thence South eighty seven degrees and thirty minutes (87 30') East Two hundred and thirty seven feet and sixty-two one hundredths of a foot, to the point or place of beginning.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Alexandria National Cemetery
City of Alexandria, VirginiaSection number 10 Page 5**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (Continued)****PARCEL 2 - 2.02 ACRES**

Beginning at the South Easterly corner of the land leased by the City Council of Alexandria to the said United States of America (Parcel 1) and used as a military cemetery thence running westerly along said Cemetery two hundred and thirty seven feet to the West boundary thereof thence Southwardly parallel with the Western Boundary of the Methodist Protestant Burial Ground two hundred and thirty seven feet thence Northwardly along the line of the said Burial Ground three hundred and seventy two feet to the place of beginning.

PARCEL 3 - 8 1/8 SQUARE PERCHES

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Lot heretofore conveyed by said Baggett to the United States and in Western line of the Methodist Episcopal Burial Ground, extending thence with said lot N. 78° 7' W, 237 feet to the South West corner of said lot, thence S. 12° 4' W. 5 1/4 feet to the Southwest corner of said cemetery, thence with the Southern line thereof S. 78° 24' E. 237 feet to the South East corner of the same in the said line of the said burial ground, thence with said line N. 12° 50' E. 4 feet 1 inch, to the beginning containing 8 1/8 square perches.

PARCEL 4 - 1.61 ACRES

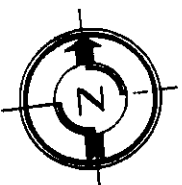
Beginning at a point at the South West corner of the Cemetery wall, running thence with the said wall N 12° 04' E, seven hundred and thirty-two and one third (732 1/3) feet to a point marked "B" on the plat, the intersection of the said wall with the dividing line between the Orange and Alexandria Railroad (now the Virginia Midland Railway) and the United States Cemetery, thence with the said dividing line extended N 80° 31' 3" West, Ten (10' 0") feet; to a point on the East Bank of Hooff's Run, thence Southward along the East bank of Hooff's Run following the meanders of the same to a point on the East bank where it intersects the South line of said Cemetery, thence along said South line extended S. 78° 24' E one hundred and seventy seven feet (177) feet to the beginning containing 1.61 acres; being part of a larger lot of ground which William B. Richards and Priscilla his wife by deed dated the 6th of January 1855 and recorded amongst the land records of Fairfax County, State of Virginia, in Liber W. No. 3, Page 40 et seq. granted and conveyed to the said John Baggett in fee.

A map (Attachment 1) indicates boundary containing the four parcels; bearing and distance as noted.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Cemetery System has used the existing boundaries of the cemetery.

Sketch Map
 Alexandria National Cemetery
 Alexandria Virginia



Scale 1 inch = 100 feet

